

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 08337 141521Z

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 EB-04 RSC-01 COME-00 /020 W

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R 141421Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8819

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUENOS AIRES 8337

PASS USDA/FAS FOR LIVESTOCK & LIVESTOCK PRODUCTS FROM AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJ: LIVESTOCK AND MEAT

REF: 13 C

ESTIMATE FORECAST

SUMMARY:	1973	1974	1975
CATTLE NO (000 HEAD) JUNE 30	54,771	56,500	58,000
CATTLE SLAUGHTER (MILL HEAD)	9.8	10.1	11.5
AVG. CARCASS WEIGHT (KILOS)	220	220	215
BEEF PRODUCTION (000 TONS)	2,152	2,226	2,473
EXPORTS (000 TONS)	556	290	350
DOM. CONSUMPTION (000 TONS)	1,596	1,936	2,123
PER CAPITAL CONSUMPTION (KILOS)	65.7	78.5	84.8
POPULATION (000)	24,310	24,675	25,045

1. BEEF EXPORTS (CWE) DURING JANUARY-OCTOBER PERIOD 1974
DROPPED TO 253,000 MT, DOWN 47 PERCENT FROM CORRESPONDING
PERIOD 1973. EXPORTS DURING REMAINDER 1974 EXTIMATED
AT 37,000 TONS AND WILL CONSIST PRIMARILY OF 5,000 TONS TO
ITALY UNDER THE GATT QUOTA WHICH WAS OPENED IN MID-OCTOBER AND
REMAINDER OF 40,000 TONS (CWE) CONTRACT WITH USSR.

2. EXPORTS IN 1975 WILL DEPEND UPON MANY FACTOS INCLUDING
POLICY ON IMPORT BAN, STOCKS, SLAUGHTER AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
IN EC AS WELL AS MEAT EXPORT POLICY OF NEW ECONOMIC TEAM OF
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PAGE 02 BUENOS 08337 141521Z

GOA WHICH TOOK OFFICER LATTER PART OF OCTOBER.

3. GOA OFFICIALS AND INDUSTRY ARE OF OPINION THAT EXPORT PROSPECTS DURING FIRST QUARTER OF 1975 AND POSSIBLY FIRST HALF OF 1975 WILL BE POOR. SOME IMPROVEMENT DURING SECOND HALF OF 1975 EXPECTED BY SOME. INDUSTRY ADVISED THAT STOCKS ON DECEMBER 31, 1974 IN EC NINE ESTIMATED AT 300,000 MT (CWE) AND BEEF PRODUCTION IN CY 1975 AT 650,000 MT. SOME IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED IN CANNED MEAT MARKETS (PRIMARILY US) AFTER FIRST QUARTER 1975 AS RESULT OF SIGNIFICANT DROP IN PRICES OVER PAST FEW MONTHS AND RETAILERS WORK OFF HIGHER PRICED STOCKS.

4. MOST OPTIMISTS PLACE EXPORTS IN 1975 AT NO MORE THAN 400,000 TONS AND PESSIMISTS AT 300,000 TONS. RECOMMEND FIRST ESTIMATE OF 350,000 MT.

5. FIVE TO SIX MEMBERS ARGENTINE INDUSTRY-GOVERNMENT TEAM EXPECTED TO DEPART BUENOS AIRES ON NOV 15 FOR LIMA, PERU WITH FINAL DESTINATION CUBA TO NEGOTIATE SALES OF 5,000 - 10,000 MT OF BEEF CONSISTING OF CANNED CORNED BEEF, ROAST BEEF WITH GRAVY, BEEF IN NATURAL JUICES AND CANNED LUNCHEON MEAT REPORTEDLY FOR SUGARCANE WORKERS.

6. ALL SOURCES LOOK FOR 1975 TO BE DIFFICULT YEAR FOR BEEF EXPORTS. MEAT INDUSTRY OF ARGENTINA REPORTED TO BE ON ITS KNEES - LOSSES INCURRED BY GOA CONTROLLED PACKING PLANTS (FASA, SWIFT, AND CAP) IN 1974 ESTIMATED \$100 MILLION.
MONTLLOR

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